

Mess. His Letters beares his minde, not I his minde.
Wor. I prethee tell me, doth he keepe his Bed?

Mess. He did, my Lord, foure dayes ere I set forth:
And at the time of my departure thence, he was much fear'd by his Physician.

Wor. I would the state of time had first bene whole,
Ere he by sicknesse had bene visited:
His health was neuer better worth then now.

Hotsp. Sicke now? droope now? this sicknes doth infect
The very Life-blood of our Enterprize,

'Tis catching hither, euen to our Campe,
He writes me here, that inward sicknesse,
And that his friends by deputation

Could not so soone be drawne: nor did he thinke it meet,
To lay so dangerous and deare a trust
On any Soule remou'd, but on his owne.

Yet doth he giue vs bold aduertisement,
That with our small coniunction we should on,
To see how Fortune is dispos'd to vs:

For as he writes, there is no quailing now,
Because the King is certainly possesse
Of all our purposes: What say you to it?

Wor. Your Fathers sicknesse is a mayme to vs.
Hotsp. A perillous Gash, a very Limbe lopt off:

And yet, in faith, it is not his present want
Seemes more then we shall finde it.

Were it good, to set the exact wealth of all our states
All at one Cast? To set so rich a mayne
On the nice hazard of one doubtfull houre,

It were not good: for therein should we reade
The very Bottom, and the Soule of Hope,
The very Lift, the very vtmost Bound
Of all our fortunes.

Dowg. Faith, and so wee should,
Where now remains a sweet reuerfion.
We may boldly spend, vpon the hope
Of what is to come in:

A comfort of retrement liues in this.
Hotsp. A Randeuous, a Home to flye vnto,
If that the Deuill and Mischance looke bigge
Vpon the Maydenhead of our Affaires.

Wor. But yet I would your Father had bene here:
The Qualitie and Heire of our Attempt,

Brookes no diuision: It will be thought
By some, that know not why he is away,
That wisdom, loyalty, and meere dislike
Of our proceedings, kept the Earle from hence.

And thinke, how such an apprehension
May turne the tyde of fearefull Faction,
And breede a kinde of question in our cause:

For well you know, wee of the offring side,
Must keepe aloofe from strict arbitrement,
And stop all sight-holes, euery loope, from whence
The eye of reason may prie in vpon vs:

This absence of your Father drawes a Curtaine,
That shewes the ignorant a kinde of feare,
Before not dreamt of.

Hotsp. You frayne too farre.
I rather of his absence make this vse:
It lends a Lustre, and more great Opinion,
A larger Dare to your great Enterprize.

Then if the Earle were here: for men must thinke,
If we without his helpe, can make a Head
To push against the Kingdome: With his helpe,
We shall o'returne it topsie-turvy downe:

Yet all goes well, yet all our joyes are whole.

Dowg. As heart can thinke:
There is not such a word spoke of in Scotland.
At this Dreame of Feare,

Enter Sir Richard Vernon.
Hotsp. My Cousin Vernon, welcome by my Soule.

Vern. Pray God my newes be worth a welcome, Lord.
The Earle of Westmerland, seven thousand strong,
Is marching hither-wards, with Prince Iohn.

Hotsp. No harme: what more?
Vern. And further, I haue learn'd,
The King himselfe in person hath set forth,
Or hither-wards intended speedily,
With strong and mightie preparation.

Hotsp. He shall be welcome too.
Where is his Sonne,
The nimble-footed Mad-Cap, Prince of Wales,

And his Cymrades, that daunt the World aside,
And bid it passe?

Vern. All furnish'd, all in Armes;
All plum'd like Estridges, that with the Winde
Bayted like Eagles, hauing lately bath'd,
Glittering in Golden Coates, like Images,
As full of spirit as the Month of May,
And gorgeous as the Sunne at Mid-summer,

Wanton as youthfull Goates, wilde as young Bulls,
I saw young Harry with his Beuer on,
His Cushes on his thighs, gallantly arm'd,
Rise from the ground like feathered Mercury,
And vaulted with such ease into his Seate,

As if an Angell dropt downe from the Clouds,
To turne and winde a fierie Pegasus,
And with the World with Noble Horsemanship,

Hotsp. No more, no more,
Worse then the Sunne in March:
This prayse doth nourish Agues: let them come,
They come like Sacrifices in their trimme,
And to the fire-ey'd Maid of smoakie Warre,
All hot, and bleeding, will wee offer them:

The mayled Mars shall on his Altar sit,
Vp to the eares in blood: I am on fire,
To heare this rich reprimall is so high,
And yet not ours: Come, let me take my Horse,

Who is to beare me like a Thunder-bolt,
Against the bosome of the Prince of Wales:
Harry to Harry, shall not Horse to Horse
Meete, and ne're part, till one drop downe a Course:

Oh, that Glendower were come:
There is more newes of him, I haue receiv'd,
I learned in Worcester, as I rode along,
He cannot draw his Power this foureteen dayes.

Dowg. That's the worst Tidings that I heare of yet.
Wor. I by my faith, that beares a frosty found,

Hotsp. What may the Kings whole Battaille reach vnto?

Vern. To thirty thousand, my Lord.

Hotsp. Forty let it be, I care not:
My Father and Glendower being both away,
The powres of vs, may serue to great a day.

Come, let vs take a muster speedily:
Doomesday is neere; dye all, dye merrily,
Dye.

Dowg. Talk not of dying, I am out of feare
Of death, or deaths hand, for this one halfe yeare.

Scena Secunda.

Enter Falstaffe and Bardolph.

Falst. Bardolph, get thee before to Couentry, fill me a
Bottle of Sack, our Souldiers shall march through: wee'll
to Sutton-cop-hill to Night.

Bard. Will you giue me Money, Captaine?

Falst. Lay out, lay out.

Bard. This Bottle makes an Angell.

Falst. And if it doe, take it for thy labour: and if it
make twentie, take them all, Ile answere the Coynage.
Bid my Lieutenant Peto meete me at the Townes end.

Bard. I will Captaine: farewell. *Exit.*

Falst. If I be not asham'd of my Souldiers, I am a
fower-Gurnet: I haue mis-vs'd the Kings Presse dam-
nably, I haue got, in exchange of a hundred and fiftie
Souldiers, three hundred and odde Pounds. I presse me
none but good House-holders, Yeomens Sonnes: enquire
me out contrasted Batchelers, such as had bene ask'd
twice on the Banes: such a Commoditie of warme slaues,

as had as lieue heare the Deuill, as a Drumme: such as
feare the report of a Calliuer, worse then a struck-Foole,
or a hurt wilde-Ducke. I prest me none but such Toftes
and Butters, with Hearts in their Bellies no bigger then
Pinnes heads, and they haue bought out their seruices:

And now, my whole Charge consists of Ancients, Cor-
porals, Lieutenants, Gentlemen of Companies, Slaues as
ragged as Lazarus in the painted Cloth, where the Glu-
cons Dogges licked his Sores; and such, as indeed were
neuer Souldiers, but discarding vniust Seruingmen, youn-
ger Sonnes to younger Brothers, reuolted Tapsters and
Oftlers, Trade-falne, the Cankers of a calme World, and
long Peace, tenne times more dishonorable ragged,

then an old-fac'd Ancient; and such haue I to fill vp the
roomes of them that haue bought out their seruices: that
you would thinke, that I had a hundred and fiftie totter'd
Prodigalls, lately come from Swine-keeping, from eating
Drasse and Huskes. A mad fellow met me on the way,
and told me, I had vnload'd all the Gibbets, and prest the
dead bodies. No eye hath seene such skar-Crowes: Ile
not march through Couentry with them, that's flat. Nay,

and the Villaines march wide betwixt the Legges, as if
they had Gyues on; for indeede, I had the moit of them
out of Prison. There's not a Shirt and a halfe in all my
Company: and the halfe Shirt is two Napkins tack't to-
gether, and throwne ouer the shoulders like a Heralds
Coat, without sleeues: and the Shirt, to lay the truth,
holme from my Host of S. Albones, or the Red-Nose
Inne-keeper of Dauentry. But that's all one, they'll finde
Linnen enough on euery Hedge.

Enter the Prince, and the Lord of Westmerland.

Prince. How now blowne Jack? how now Quilt?

Falst. What Hal? How now mad Wag, what a Deuill
do'st thou in Warwickshire? My good Lord of West-
merland, I cry you mercy, I thought your Honour had al-
ready bene at Shrewsbury.

West. Faith, Sir John, 'tis more then time that I were
there, and you too: but my Powers are there alreadie.
The King, I can tell you, looks for vs all: we must away
all to Night.

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